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Two Council Seats Contested

All Registered Voters Eligible To Cast Ballots on April 1

Registered voters in Broken Arrow will have the opportunity to go to the polls on April 1 and cast ballots in two City Council ward elections.

Three Council seats were up for election this year, but Council Member At-Large Wade McCaleb drew no opposition.

Mayor James Reynolds announced earlier this year that he would not seek re-election, which means at least one new Council member will be sworn in for the April 7 meeting. Bryan Hollman and Melissa Mahan both filed for the Ward 4 seat which Reynolds has occupied since 1975.

Vice-Mayor Tony Petrik is running for re-election in Ward 3. He's being opposed by Tom Chatterton and Mike Lester.

The City's elections are non-partisan, which means there are no primaries. The candidate with the most votes is declared the winner.

While the candidates must reside in the ward for which they are running for office, all registered voters may vote for any of the candidates. A complete list of polling places is listed on the City's web site (www.city.broken-arrow.ok.us).

Once the winners have been certified, they will be sworn in and begin their four-year terms at the April 7 meeting. Reynolds' last meeting as Mayor will be March 17. The Council will vote on a new mayor to begin serving a two-year term.

Elections for Council posts are held every two years, with Wards 1 and 2 having been decided in 2001. Richard Carter and Craig Thurmond are currently holding those posts.



HIS HONOR HONORED AGAIN -- James Reynolds, who announced that he would not seek re-election to the City Council this year, was honored at a recent Valor Telecom Hometown Heroes luncheon at Indian Springs Country Club.

Mayor Reynolds Leaves Post with Gratitude

Broken Arrow Mayor James Reynolds announced on Jan. 14 that he would not be seeking re-election for his City Council position for Ward 4, breaking a string of 28 years of public service here.

"In making this announcement, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank my No. 1 supporter, my wife Mary, and the rest of my family. Also, I want to express my appreciation to you, the people of Broken Arrow, for the trust and confidence you have shown in me over the years," said Reynolds in a letter issued with his announcement.

"I have been blessed with an excellent group of fellow Council members, and am well pleased with our accomplish-

ments - those that we have been able to see to a conclusion and those that are works in progress.

"I will always treasure my 28 years with the City of Broken Arrow. Being able to be a part of such remarkable growth and progress in our community has been worth every minute of the time and every ounce of the energy this service has required. It has afforded me and my family so many exciting opportunities to participate in activities that have helped shape Broken Arrow's future."

Reynolds served as Mayor of the City since 1990, being elected by fellow Council members every two years. His final meeting will be March 17.

City Bond Projects Making BA Better Place to Live, Work

Broken Arrow voters supported a \$28.5 million bond package designed to take the city forward into the new millennium by improving streets and intersections, bolstering public safety and adding to the quality of life.

It's impossible to go anywhere in the community without seeing signs of progress made possible by that bond issue. And the signs will just keep showing up over the next few years. The bond projects were planned with input from citizen committees.

The most obvious indicators to most residents -- and many visitors each year -- are the improvements to streets and intersections. After funding from a previous bond issue made possible the widening of Kenosha from Aspen to Garnett, opening up commercial and residential development in that sector, the 2000 bond issue funded the five-laning of Elm from Houston to Washington (completed) and from Washington to New Orleans (nearing completion), as well as from Florence to the new South Loop or Creek Turnpike Extension.

Aspen has been widening to five lanes from Washington to New Orleans in a key project, and widening has also been completed (funds through an earlier bond) on Aspen from the BA Expressway to Omaha.

The City's outdoor storm warning sirens have been upgraded and many new sirens installed. Land has been acquired for a future fire station. Improvements have been completed at the Animal Shelter and work was started in January on a new Justice Center (see photo above). A new training center for fire and police is also planned.

Some of the most impressive projects that have yet to be completed (but are under construction) include the city's largest park, Nienhuis, located just south of Broken Arrow Golf Club off Lynn Lane. It will include a new youth football complex and a youth/community center. Jackson Park is nearing completion on the city's west side, and almost every other park has had improvements. The Family Aquatic Center at Central Park was a huge success in its first two years, and a new FAC is being built at Country Aire park and should be finished in time for the summer.

Indian Springs Sports Complex has opened new additions on the west side of Aspen (that roadway is being expanded to five lanes) with new soccer and adult softball fields.



ANOTHER PROJECT UNDERWAY -- Ground was broken in January (before it froze solid!) for Broken Arrow's new Justice Center, just south of the Police Station. This is another of the projects funded through the 2000 bond issue. Manning the shovels here were (from left) Municipal Court Judge Merle Whitebook, City Manager Michael Kadlecik, Mayor James Reynolds, Police Chief Carolyn Kusler and Police Major David Adair.

Police Chief, City Clerk Retiring

Broken Arrow Chief of Police Carolyn Kusler and long-time City Clerk Brenda Ray have announced their retirements.

Kusler, who said when she took the job more than five years ago that she wanted to retire in five years, stayed on a little longer to see the start of a major project -- a new Justice Center which is now under construction just south of the Police Station.

She is retiring at the end of March.

Ray began working for the City just a few months out of high school -- more than 30 years ago. She's retiring to go into real estate business with her husband.

Kusler came to Broken Arrow in September of 1997. "Chief Carolyn Kusler accomplished some remarkable things while she served as Chief of Police in this community," said City Manager Michael Kadlecik. "She helped set a high standard for law enforcement that has led to our Police Department gaining state accreditation. She has been a leader in community policing concepts, in the integration of technology into the department and in an efficient use of technology."

Ray was Director of Administrative Services in addition to City Clerk and has been acting City Manager several times.

The City has been advertising for a Police Chief nationally and has also advertised for a City Clerk.

Sanitation Crews Play Key Role in Clean City

Broken Arrow has long been noted as one of the “most liveable cities” in Oklahoma -- and more recently even in America! A key reason for that has been the pride its citizens take in the appearance of their community.

Trying to make it a little easier on those clean-minded residents has been Broken Arrow's Sanitation Division of Public Works. More than a year after a new schedule of curbside pickups was put in place, it's obvious that what was already good has become even better!

Public Works Director Dave Wooden points out that one reason for the success of the schedule changes has been the pride those employees take in their jobs and in Broken Arrow. Several members of the Sanitation Division, including director William Cade, are long-time City employees. They not only know how to do their jobs, they know the people they serve.

One of the projects those employees look forward to each year is their “Sanitation Santa” program at Christmas. Without any fanfare or public recognition, employees began several years ago to use their own money, and donations from a few other City employees, to purchase gifts for children they knew were going to have a lean holiday.

With a little notice the past couple of years, the program has expanded. Gifts are bought and distributed to parents, who can pass them around on Christmas morning.

Day in and day out, week after week, the Sanitation crews do their jobs -- and more -- with very few complaints and several compliments from residents. What was a six-day work week has been shortened. Three routes have become two, with Wednesday an “off” day for vehicle maintenance or a make-up day following a Monday holiday.

Wooden reports that the division gets praise from customers who go above and beyond; little things, like picking up trash spilled by stray dogs, items that ordinarily would not be picked up, etc. They become a part of their neighborhoods.

Residents in Broken Arrow are given 200 free plastic trash bags each year in another effort by the City to encourage efforts to “keep it clean.” And a free spring cleaning day is held each year (May 3 this spring).

In addition to those programs, an Anti-Litter Task Force has been created, mainly through the efforts of one of the city's senior citizens -- Coy Bebbler. Efforts are being made to expand the Adopt-A-Mile and Adopt-A-Park lists, and to make motorists more aware of not throwing trash from their vehicles.

It's an effort that demands a great deal of cooperation between City employees, residents, businesses and even our visitors. But a clean city is built on a foundation laid by workers in the Sanitation Division and Public Works.



PREPARING TO BE PREPARED -- Branon Dodd (second from right), Broken Arrow's Risk Management/Employee Safety Director, meets with other emergency management officers at a planning session in Camp Gruber. Broken Arrow will be participating in a three-day exercise there in May to help municipal governments prepare for a variety of possible disaster situations. The City's Police, Fire, Public Works and other departments have been working together on emergency contingency plans here.

Trash Bag Distribution, Spring Clean-Up Day Scheduled

Saturday, May 3, has been set as the City's Free Spring Clean-up Day, with distribution of the free plastic trash bags to begin April 14.

Each year the City provides 200 (four rolls of 50) plastic trash bags to utility customers. Post cards will be sent out in late March and early April to give details to those customers. The cards must be brought in to the Maintenance Center at 1700 W. Detroit and be exchanged for the four rolls. You may also bring the card by City Hall (the far south end at the Utilities Division). New customers are also given free trash bags.

Distribution will run during regular business hours from Monday, April 14, through Saturday, April 19, then again from April 21 through April 26.

On May 3 city residents may bring loads of yard trash, old furniture, appliances which do not contain any hazardous materials, etc., to the same site (1700 W. Detroit). Public Works employees will be on hand to help unload trucks and trailers, and dump and trash trucks will then haul tons of trash to the land fill.

Broken Arrow's City Council has supported the distribution of the free trash bags as an indicator of how important it is to keep the community clean and dispose of trash properly. There is also a 24-hour recycling center on Elm.

Centennial Rooster Days Something to Crow About!

Broken Arrow's 71st Rooster Days Celebration will be one of the city's biggest Centennial events as well, starting the evening of May 8 and running through Sunday, May 11.

Doug Stone, who's had eight No. 1 hits, will be the featured performer on the large stage Friday, May 9, during K 95.5 FM's Country Night. Saturday will once again be Gospel Day.

Rooster Days was recognized for some top awards this past year, including the Redbud Award as Oklahoma's outstanding event. The Chamber of Commerce was also given a gold and a bronze award from the International Pinnacle Award competition.

Murphy Bros. Carnival will once again provide the rides and many of the games in Central Park. Local groups will be selling food and soft drinks throughout Rooster Days. There will also be arts and crafts booths inside the Community Center.

The Chamber and City work together on the event, with Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Police and Fire departments a key to the success of Rooster Days. Through most of the previous 70 events, Rooster Days was held in the middle of downtown, on Main Street. It has been held in Central Park the past several years, enabling it to grow and bring big-name entertainers to the city.



ROAD PROJECTS WRAPPING UP -- This stretch of Elm from Washington, looking north to Houston, is just one of several bond projects that have been completed during the past year.

Centennial Events Continue in BA

Although Broken Arrow's Centennial Celebration kicked off in the rain back in October, there are still many events planned -- and some in the planning stages -- through October of 2003.

Glory Days returns this year to Indian Springs, and school students will be painting a mural on the south wall of Smitty's Western Wear. A grand finale is being put together for the fall, with cultural events scheduled throughout the spring and summer.

City of Broken Arrow

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(www.city.broken-arrow.ok.us)

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Animal Control259-8311
Citizens Action Center258-3587
Fire Department (Main office)259-8360
Parks & Recreation/Comm. Center . . .259-8380
Public Works (all offices)259-8373
Seniors Center (at Main Place)259-8377
Sewer & Water Emergencies
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.259-8373
after hours259-8400
Police Department259-8350
TDD259-8452
Traffic Fines/Municipal Court259-8424
Utility Payments259-8409

Police, Fire or Ambulance Emergencies911

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FOCUS

Broken Arrow City Council

James C. Reynolds, Mayor
Tony Petrik, Vice Mayor
Richard Carter, Member
Wade McCaleb, Member
Craig Thurmond, Member

Michael Kadlecik,
City Manager

Wayne Bishop, Editor



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